

The weather at major Swissair destinations

	30.12.84	MIN.	MAX.	
AMSTERDAM	0	2	4	Cloudy
BRUSSELS	0	2	4	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	0	2	4	Cloudy
GENEVA	0	2	4	Cloudy
LONDON	0	2	4	Cloudy
MADRID	0	2	4	Cloudy
MILAN	0	2	4	Cloudy
MUNICH	0	2	4	Cloudy
PARIS	0	2	4	Cloudy
ROME	0	2	4	Cloudy
STUTTGART	0	2	4	Cloudy
ZURICH	0	2	4	Cloudy

*For the latest weather conditions, contact Swissair.
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swissair

THE WEATHER

Forecast: Clear.

	Yesterday's	Today's
Jerusalem	10-15	10-15
Golan	10-15	10-15
Nabatieh	10-15	10-15
Safed	10-15	10-15
Haifa Port	10-15	10-15
Tiberias	10-15	10-15
Nazareth	10-15	10-15
Afula	10-15	10-15
Shomron	10-15	10-15
Tel Aviv	10-15	10-15
B-G Airport	10-15	10-15
Jericho	10-15	10-15
Gaza	10-15	10-15
Beer Sheva	10-15	10-15
Eilat	10-15	10-15

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

Jewish Agency Treasurer Akiva Levinsky yesterday gave a reception at Beit Shalom in Jerusalem in honour of James Carlin, director of the Intergovernmental Committee for Migration (ICM). Among the guests were Knesset members, and Jewish Agency and government officials.

The community centre for new immigrants in Carmiel, Galilee, which was opened this summer by the British Olim Society, was dedicated in the name of Ernest and Ella Frankel, in their presence, on Wednesday, December 26.

The centre is named The Ernest and Ella Frankel Mo'adon in appreciation of their efforts in the settlement of British immigrants. Ella Frankel cut the ceremonial ribbon and Ernest Frankel unveiled the plaque. Among the guests were, Avi Orenstein, representing the Mayor of Carmiel; Eric Lucas, O.B.E., chairman of the Israel Board of Directors of the British Olim Society; Len Terry, managing director of the British Olim Society, and other figures from the English speaking community.

The Soldiers Welfare Association yesterday sponsored a concert at the Dan Hotel by soprano Charlotte de Rothschild. A reception followed the concert.

Spadolini ends 5-day visit

Jerusalem Post Reporter
Italian Defence Minister Giovanni Spadolini left Israel yesterday after a five-day visit. He did not speak to reporters before boarding his flight back to Rome.

IAI said seeking Swedish engineers

STOCKHOLM (Reuters). - Israel is recruiting Swedish aerospace technicians to work on the Lavi fighter project, a newspaper reported yesterday.

The Stockholm daily Dagens Nyheter said Israel Aircraft Industries is trying to lure engineers from the Swedish aerospace firm Saab-Scania AB by offering huge tax-free salaries.

It said a British consultancy firm had advertised positions on behalf of the Israeli company, offering Swedish engineers a net \$52,000 to \$70,000 per year - up to four times their current pre-tax salaries. A Saab-Scania spokesman told

HOME NEWS

Town threatened to secede Yeroham jobless postpone action for week

By ROBERT ROSENBERG and LORA MORIEL with Itim.

Residents of the economically troubled town of Yeroham announced a six-day moratorium on protests yesterday after Employment Service director-general Baruch Haklai promised to make special efforts to find work for the jobless.

Haklai made the promise in Jerusalem after a meeting with Yeroham officials and representatives.

Haklai met with the local council head, the secretary of the workers' council, and local factory managers while Yeroham workers were demonstrating in Jerusalem for jobs.

He added that those in Yeroham needing vocational training would get it in local factories, and that during their training they would receive unemployment compensation.

Only 50 of Yeroham's 700 unemployed showed up at yesterday's demonstration outside the Prime Minister's Office. "We couldn't have controlled a mob," said one of the leaders of the rally, Haim Ben-Shitrit, 21, is the youngest of 11 children. He said he had just got back from Lebanon on Saturday night and was at the pool hall when he heard about the demonstration.

Ya'acov Zarfaty, 17, dropped out of school two years ago, because, as he admitted, he was "a troublemaker."

"Don't forget to say you didn't have money for books," shouted a friend over Zarfaty's shoulder.

"That too. But really, I was a troublemaker."

Since then, Zarfaty, with eight brothers and sisters, has held odd jobs. "I clean a backyard here, do some whitewashing there. I want a job. I'll do the blackest work. I'll clean streets. Anything. A job."

Moshe Azulay, 49, has been unemployed since 1979. He was an ambulance driver. Of his 11 children, eight are still at home. A ninth, a son who was in the regular army until last year, sometimes stays with his parents. None of the eight has jobs.

"The important thing about a job is to get out of this depression, to stop being the second housewife, making beds, washing dishes," said Azulay. Azulay's black working boots were polished and he wore a tie under a polyester sweater.

Assy Arama is chairman of the "Yeroham Unemployed Committee." "I can tell you, as an ex-policeman," said Arama, "our

youths are degenerating into crime."

The demonstration yesterday had as its slogan a threat to declare Yeroham "an independent state."

Men were said to be planning to turn in their reserve duty booklets. Businessmen refuse to pay VAT. Some of the younger demonstrators said, "we'll close the roads so you'll need a visa to get into town."

"These aren't idle warnings," said Dedi Harpaz, a former Netanyahu resident who after 13 years in the army decided to "be Zionist" and moved to Yeroham where he opened a garage in 1981.

In Yeroham yesterday, Anat Sabag, 30, a local council employee, said, "Let's not look for the guilty party, we forgive everyone."

"The main thing is that pressing problems be solved and that the town get going again."

Yeroham, between the Great Crater and the winding Oil Road, is surrounded by army camps and dust bowls, and is a dead-end town on a dead-end road. Even the pond in Yeroham Park has dried up.

Thirty per cent of its work force is unemployed. Ten per cent of those who have jobs work for the local council, now operating out of the Project Renewal office because of a fire 10 days ago.



Unemployed residents of Yeroham demonstrate in Jerusalem yesterday.

(Ruhamin Israel)

Religious MKs furious with Baram on Who-is-a-Jew vote

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Jerusalem Post Reporter
Members of a religious lobby in the Knesset were furious to learn yesterday that Labour Party Secretary-General Uzi Baram intends to instruct the Labour faction today to vote against the "Who-is-a-Jew" amendment.

The lobby is to ask Prime Minister Peres and other Labour Party leaders to allow Alignment members to vote as they wish on the amendment, due to be presented to the Knesset for a first reading on Wednesday.

Lobby chairman Avner Shaki (National Religious Party) told The Jerusalem Post that if the Labour Party insists on imposing faction discipline on its members, it will be hurting all the religious parties in the coalition. He intimated that this would damage Labour's relations with the religious parties, and advised the party leadership to re-

consider before taking such an "unwise and irresponsible step."

Over the last few days, lobby members have been contacting scores of MKs in an effort to mobilize a majority for the amendment, which will define conversion to Judaism as authentic only if carried out in accordance with halacha (religious law).

The "religious lobby," which consists of all the religious factions in the Knesset, is to meet this morning with MK Aharon Abutzeira (Tami) and two religious Knesset members from Tebiya to form a religious front to fight for this and for other religious issues.

The lobby is demanding stiffer laws on the Sabbath, kashrut and pork marketing. Shaki said he sent Yavne mayor MK Meir Shitrit (Likud) a telegram urging him to shut a store selling pork in violation of state law and a municipal by-law.

Cabinet panel to decide on giving 'Time' Kahan papers

By ASHER WALLFISH

Jerusalem Post Reporter
The cabinet yesterday empowered an ad hoc committee of four ministers to rule on the repeated request by New York Judge Abraham Sofaer to make the classified documents from the Kahan commission of inquiry into the Sabra and Shatila massacres available to the attorneys in the Time magazine libel case.

The committee, chaired by Premier Peres, is to meet this morning to discuss Sofaer's request. The other three members are Vice Premier Shamir, Defence Minister Rabin and Justice Minister Nissim. The trial, in which Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon is suing Time for \$50 million, is due to resume next Monday following the Christmas recess.

The first time Sofaer asked for the classified documents, the cabinet suggested that retired Supreme Court president Yitzhak Kahan be authorized to take questions from the New York Court on the classified section of his report and to answer "yes" or "no." But this proposal was not accepted by Sofaer.

Even before the trial opened, Sharon asked the cabinet to let the court have all the documents. When this request was refused, he made a virulent verbal attack on his colleagues as The Jerusalem Post reported at the time.

Sharon is understood to have spoken to Peres when he came back to Israel for a brief break just before Christmas, asking him to reconsider the cabinet's refusal to give the attorneys the classified material.

The secret documents were made available to the cabinet and to the members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee when the Kahan report was first released.

Histadrut elections seen held in May

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. - Histadrut elections will be held in all likelihood some time in May, labour federation sources said yesterday. The Histadrut leadership has decided to schedule elections as soon as possible, under the cover of an extended package deal, the sources said.

The Histadrut executive yesterday decided to convene the labour federation's council in order to change the regulations concerning the setting of an election date. No date was set for the council meeting, though, according to regulations, it must meet within a month of the executive's decision.

2 held for possessing PNC meeting minutes

GAZA (Itim). - Two youths travelling from Hebron to the Gaza Strip on Saturday night were arrested here when copies of the minutes from the recent Palestine National Council meeting in Amman and other PLO literature was found in a routine check of their car.

Security forces units in the Gaza Strip have been put on alert for January 1, the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the PLO.

MODAT-CABINET

Economics Minister Gad Ya'acobi said that if government spending is not reduced, and if a second stage of the economic package deal is not signed soon, the public will go on a spending spree.

Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein was one of the few ministers defending Modat. He told the cabinet that it is impossible to complain about monetary injections and to oppose budget cuts at the same time.

According to figures presented by Treasury budget division head Aaron Fogel, only some \$210 million has been cut out of the original \$1.4 b. package of budget cuts approved by the cabinet.

Fogel said that the bulk of these cuts were implemented by the smaller ministries. The Health, Defence

and Education Ministries have not slashed their budgets, he said.

Fogel indicated that a package of legislative measures that would save or bring in a total of some \$600m. was stuck at the Knesset and in committee. He asked the cabinet to speed up their approval.

Later in the meeting Modat said that Ata would have closed and a number of industrial enterprises in development towns would not have been able to operate but for him.

At the end of its stormy session, the cabinet decided to take steps this week to accelerate the legislative process required to implement the budget cuts. The cabinet also authorized its representatives on the socio-economic council, the joint body that brought about the package deal, to decide on the government's requirements for a second stage of the package deal in respect to the Histadrut and the employers.

PAY FREEZE

(Continued from Page One)

already been agreed that the tax will be levied at a rate of 4 per cent of annual earnings on all non-wage earning individuals and companies.

The labour federation is also likely to insist on the implementation of various proposals of the Steinberg commission on tax reform: in particular the repeal of the Taxation in Conditions of Inflation Law and the lowering of income tax on wage earners by an average 15 per cent.

Senior Histadrut officials last night were waiting for the government to initiate formal negotiations on the next stage of the economic package deal.

While expressing their dismay that the government has not yet come up with a comprehensive economic programme, the officials said that they expected the three-way talks to

begin soon - possibly as early as today.

The Histadrut expects a tough battle on the wages issue. According to Trade Union Department chairman Haim Haberfeld, the Histadrut will not even discuss wages until the government and the manufacturers agree to the payment of compensation to private-sector workers whose wages have been eroded by inflation.

The demand for compensation is based on the private-sector work agreement signed earlier this year which provided for the payment of compensation in the event of erosion.

In the ongoing negotiations, the manufacturers have denied that wages have been eroded, while the Histadrut has claimed erosion of some 8 per cent.

Import exemptions extended until April

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Israeli students arriving from abroad and emigrants returning before April 1 will be permitted to import personal goods purchased abroad without being subject to the current import restrictions.

The restrictions, on various goods, were imposed in September as a measure to improve the economy.

The exemptions - originally due to end tonight - were extended over the weekend in an order signed by Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon.

Besides allowing the importation of restricted goods, the order sets the import deposit the returnee must pay to get his goods released from customs at 15 per cent of their value, instead of the usual 40 per cent.

Farmers' group planning four new settlements

TEL AVIV. - The Farmers Federation is planning to establish four settlements soon, including one in the Jordan Rift and another in the Gaza Strip, a settlement adviser to Agriculture Minister Arye Nebamkin said yesterday.

Shlomo Wolf, who is also in charge of settlement efforts for the nonpartisan federation, said the settlements would be Elisha in the

KAWASME

(Continued from Page One)

proclamation between the two men.

Nayef Hawatmeh's Damascus-based Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which is believed to have been working towards such a rapprochement, openly condemned the slaying, noting that "this crime opens the door to self-destruction and fighting among Palestinians."

The PLO has announced a three-day period of official mourning.

So far, the Black September group - which in recent months has come out against Arafat - has claimed responsibility for the murder.

Tel Rumeida settlement

move is put off

Post Defence Reporter

TEL AVIV. - West Bank settlers yesterday postponed plans to try to settle in the Tel Rumeida site in Hebron because they saw the army was on alert.

Otniel Schneller, secretary of the Council of Settlements in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, told The Jerusalem Post they had planned to bring several caravans to Tel Rumeida. Four families live on the northern slope of the area and they planned to renew their attempt to settle another part of it.

The IDF got wind of the plans, however, and the number of guards was increased, a military source said. Schneller said it was clear the army had advance information and his group decided against a confrontation.

The decision to postpone action was taken on Saturday night and was also influenced by the murder of Hebron's exiled mayor, Fahd Kawasme, in Amman. Schneller said his group did not want to put the army under too much pressure.

PACKAGES. - Individual Wizo members have sent 50 packages of new clothing to children of refugees and prisoners of Zion in the Soviet Union.

LEBANON

On the matter of economic aid, Peres was less optimistic, acknowledging that Washington is waiting to see how well Israel's economic austerity measures and other related reforms are implemented.

He defended the slow implementation of Israel's announced \$1.3b. budget cut, citing "the legislative process" in the Knesset. He also said the implementation had always been projected as being spread out over 18 months. "Only two months have passed," he said.

On other matters, Peres made these points:

● Israel has not yet reached a decision on President Reagan's request for a Voice of America radio station to be based in Israel for transmission to the Soviet Union. He said Israel is trying to answer "in the most responsible way." He cited the possi-

ble damage to Soviet Jewry which such a station could pose. He also referred to some other "technical matters which should be investigated," but he did not specify what he had in mind.

● He was gloomy about the prospects of the PLO's giving Jordan's King Hussein the green light to enter peace negotiations with Israel. In this regard, he lamented the assassination Saturday of former Hebron mayor Fahd Kawasme.

● Reagan's 1982 peace initiative is not "now on the agenda." He said the administration had welcomed some of the recent steps Israel has implemented on the West Bank improving the atmosphere there. The problem is not "plans," he said, but "partners" willing to sit around a negotiating table with Israel.

Peres was interviewed via satellite by NBC correspondents Marvin Kalb and Roger Mudd.

SUPREME COURT

The site for the court is close to the Knesset helipad, between the legislature and the Bank of Israel. It was originally acquired by the government in the 1950s as part of the government Kirya which was to include a Supreme Court building. But shortage of funds always relegated the court to a low priority, and meanwhile the justices have had to make do with the draughty, old-fashioned and entirely inadequate premises leased by the state in the Russian Compound, in the heart of the city.

Cabinet sources told The Jerusalem Post that the Rothschild contribution was in effect an open cheque: Whatever the project cost would be covered by Yad Hanadiv. The sources estimated the likely cost at "many, many millions of dollars." They said any inflationary effect from the inflow of this money would

they would emphasize Israel's fundamental attachment both to justice and democracy.

"Should your government look favourably on our proposal, Yad Hanadiv would undertake to fund the entire cost of the new court's planning, development, construction and equipment, working in cooperation with the president of the Supreme Court."

"We see our response to the need for a new Supreme Court as a development of the work of both my husband and of his father before him."

"The words of the Prophet Isaiah read: 'And I will restore your judges as at first, and your counsellors as at the beginning. Afterwards Jerusalem shall be called the city of righteousness and a faithful city.'"

"Mercifully these words have stood the test of time..."

Tomorrow, Civil Defence Exercise, Ramle Area

A Civil Defence exercise will be held tomorrow, Tuesday, January 1, in the Ramle area. During the course of the exercise, there will be simulated firing and explosions, and the all clear will be sounded. In case of an actual alert, sirens will be sounded on an ascending/descending scale.

Tomorrow and Wednesday, Civil Defence Exercise in the Netanya Area

A Civil Defence exercise will be held in the Netanya town area, on Tuesday and Wednesday, January 1 and 2. Participating in the exercise will be police and Magen David Adom personnel as well as the Netanya Municipality Emergency Defence system. Sirens will be sounded. In case of an actual alert, sirens will be sounded on an ascending/descending scale.

TO JOAN SHLES
We share your deep grief at the death of your

Husband

Peltours Travel and Tourism Management and Staff

In deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved husband, father and grandfather

BENJAMIN GUTMAN

His wife: Jessie Gutman
The Sobel family - Herzliya
The Wahrman family - Jerusalem
The Garmise family - Netanya

Funeral will take place today, Monday, December 31, 1984, at the Sanhedria Funeral Parlour at 11 a.m.

Greens say on leaving:

'The Arabs are victims of the Jews'

By ROY ISACOWITZ
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — A true German anti-fascist party must care about "the victims of the victims," according to Jürgen Reents, leader of a visiting delegation of West Germany's Greens Party. Reents was speaking at a press conference here, just before the delegation left Israel after a two-week Middle East tour.

Reents said that one of the causes of the Arab-Israeli conflict had been the "crimes" suffered by the Jews at the hands of the Germans. Consequently, he said, Germans had a special responsibility in the region, and he called on the West German government to increase its aid to the Palestinians.

Summing up their tour, which took them to Lebanon, Jordan, Syria and Israel, the Greens confirmed that their prior notions had not changed as a result of what they had seen or heard. They called for unconditional withdrawal of the Israeli Defence Forces from Lebanon, withdrawal from the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan, and the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside Israel.

The Greens had few words of sympathy or understanding for Israel. They do not support an Israel that occupies the land of other people, Reents said, but they "definitely do support an Israel that wants to live in peace."



Jürgen Reents

Referring to the controversy that surrounded the delegation's visit, including charges of anti-Semitism, Reents acknowledged that the charges had hurt. He stressed that the Greens Party is based on the struggle against neo-Nazism and Germany's fascist tradition.

The delegation realized that its statements would be received more critically than those by visitors from other countries, he said, and acknowledged that the fact that most of the Greens were not alive during the Nazi era did not exempt them from responsibility.

Nevertheless, Reents said, the delegation believed that the charges of

anti-Semitism stemmed from its support of the Arabs and the PLO.

The Greens were sharply critical of the Israeli media and the Foreign Ministry for "misinformation" about their visit to Yad Vashem Martyrs and Heroes Memorial. Much of the media reported late last week that the delegation would not visit Yad Vashem, when in fact it spent three hours there.

Delegation member Ali Schmeisser blamed the confusion on a Foreign Ministry official with whom the delegation met before visiting the memorial. Schmeisser explained that the media had not been informed that the delegation intended visiting Yad Vashem, because they did not want to "make a show" of the visit. The Greens regarded the visit as "a very personal experience" and wanted to keep it quiet, he said.

The delegation members believe that international pressure will help alter Israel's positions. Reents said, and they would work actively towards that end. One activity being planned is the establishment of a watchdog committee under the aegis of the European Parliament to look into allegations of human-rights violations on the West Bank.

The committee is to be organized by Brigitte Heinrich, who was prevented from entering Israel due to her conviction in Germany on terrorism charges.

Blackouts expected soon
Shahal calls in vain for funds for IEC

By YITZHAK OKED
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Despite appeals from Energy Minister Moshe Shahal, the Finance Ministry is continuing to refuse to transfer funds to the Mekorot national water company and the Israel Electric Corporation.

At yesterday's cabinet meeting Shahal called on the Finance Ministry to release subsidy money so that the IEC can function without disruption.

Today will be the second day the IEC will not get fuel from its suppliers, to whom it has run up a \$6 billion debt. Mekorot owes the IEC \$5 billion and the Finance Ministry owes both a total of \$12 billion in subsidies.

The IEC spokesman said yesterday it is trying to cope with the fuel shortfall and "doing everything possible to forestall blackouts in various parts of the country."

He said that the coal-fuelled station at Hadera is being operated at maximum capacity while power stations at Haifa, Tel Aviv and Ashdod burning liquid fuel are being used less.

He foresaw blackouts but was not able to state when they would start. "They might start today or in another day or two. We are doing our utmost to delay them," he said.

The Finance Ministry claims that the IEC has given extensive wage benefits to its workers, and refuses to transfer the subsidies before these benefits are retracted. The Energy Ministry claims that the payments were based on an accounting mistake which has been remedied by deducting \$7.7 million from the paychecks of IEC workers during the past two months. The Finance Ministry claims this is not enough.

Frozen St. Peter's fish
selling like hot cakes

Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — Frozen St. Peter's fish have become one of the country's hottest selling items.

Last week the fish breeders began marketing cleaned, ready-to-cook frozen St. Peter's (amnoon) at \$1.900 per kilogram, half their regular price, to reduce the large stocks of the fish in their ponds.

Sales have shot up from 700 kgs. a week to 20 tons during the past week. Amnon Levin, secretary of the breeders union, told *The Jerusalem Post*.

The concern that the price slash might harm sales of fresh St. Peter's has proved unfounded. Sales of the fresh fish have gone up too, helped by a lower retail price of \$1.150 per kilo in some of the larger retail chains.

Bezek gives reprieve to
defence establishment

Jerusalem Post Reporter

The defence establishment's telephone work yesterday, despite Bezek's threat to cut off an undisclosed number of lines because of an unpaid \$10 billion phone bill.

Bezek postponed the disconnections after Prime Minister Peres announced he would personally deal with the problem.

Since the public telecommunications company was established nearly a year ago, the defence establishment has run up a \$10b. debt, not including linkage and interest. Bezek threatened to cut off non-essential phones starting yesterday if the bill were not paid.

UK settlers convene

RA'ANANA. — Over 35,000 British Jews have settled in Israel. World Zionist Organization chairman Arye Duzin told the annual conference of the British Settlers Association here at the weekend. This represents some 8 per cent of the British Jewish community.

British Olim Society assistant director Yigal Levene said some 1,000 immigrants arrived from Britain in 1984. He praised the close cooperation between the settlers association and British Olim, the financial and mortgage assistance agency funded by the Joint Israel Appeal.

Both Levene and settlers association head Arye Chapman praised WZO aliyah department chairman Chaim Aron for his work in immigrant absorption since taking over the department.

RUBBER — Some \$3 million has been invested in a factory for silicon rubber, using knowhow acquired in the U.S., at Kibbutz Degania Bet.



A nurse teaches Ethiopian Jewish women in Kfar Sava how to diaper their babies.

(Michael Freud)

Row over firing of Arab doctor at Rambam

By DAVID RUDGE
Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — An Arab doctor who allegedly made insulting remarks to wounded soldiers brought to Rambam Hospital from Lebanon, has been sacked.

Dr. Suhail Karkabi's dismissal is to take effect from the end of January. The Rambam doctor's committee told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday that it intends to fight Karkabi's dismissal.

The hospital administration declined to comment on the sacking yesterday.

According to a report in *Ma'ariv* yesterday, Karkabi's dismissal arose from insulting remarks he made as two soldiers were brought to the hospital by helicopter from Lebanon in the early hours of the morning last May 26.

Karkabi allegedly told an army medical team at the helicopter landing pad that he was "fed up with your wounded and your helicopters" and

with the government's Lebanon policy.

Hospital staff on duty in the emergency ward that night complained to administration about Karkabi's remarks. According to *Ma'ariv*, five petitions calling for the doctor's dismissal were lodged with the hospital.

The Jerusalem Post has learned that an internal inquiry was made at the time but no disciplinary action was taken against Karkabi.

According to hospital sources, his dismissal seven months after the alleged incident was a result of general manpower cuts, made at the hospital for purely financial reasons.

Karkabi has been working at the hospital for nearly two years. He told *The Post* yesterday that as a civil servant he could not comment on his dismissal, but said that the case is not yet over.

Rambam doctors' committee chairman Uri Teitelman said the committee was fighting the dismissal

on the grounds that no official explanation had been given for it.

He also charged that it is contrary to agreements to dismiss a trainee specialist who has completed more than one year of a five-year course, as Karkabi has.

Teitelman said that as far as he knows there was no commission of inquiry into the incident several months ago, and Karkabi has not had the opportunity to state his case.

The administration has informed the committee that Karkabi's dismissal is in no way connected to the remarks he had allegedly made in May. "They say they are firing him because they have to make cutbacks and they have taken the opportunity in his case because his contract has expired. I am not prepared to comment on whether we believe this explanation or not," said Teitelman.

He added that the doctors' committee opposes any cuts in staff, and that Karkabi's dismissal is the only dismissal they had been asked to handle recently.

Cassette pirates hurt music business

By GREER FAY CASHMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

There has been a "catastrophic decline" in legitimate sales of records and cassettes, Danny Yadin, head of CBS Records Ltd. and chairman of the Israel Federation of Record Manufacturers said yesterday.

Speaking to Third Programme radio personnel at the American Cultural Centre in Jerusalem, Yadin said that over the past two years sales had dropped by 40 per cent.

Conversely, sales of pirated cassettes have skyrocketed, he said, more than doubling those of legally produced recordings.

Of a total of 5,300,000 records and cassettes sold in 1984, Yadin estimated some four million were sold by cassette pirates.

Recording companies are not the sole victims of the cassette swindle, according to Yadin. The government, he said, is losing some \$13 million per annum in taxation revenue, and performing artists are being cheated out of \$3.6m. in royalties.

The drop in sales has forced cutbacks in the industry. CBS, which has 65 per cent of the local market, is barely making a profit and has reduced its staff from 120 to less than 100, he said. Yadin predicted that by the end of 1985 the CBS staff will number 60.

For the time being, record companies can do little to fight the pirates, Yadin said. Approaches to government officials, Knesset members and law enforcers have been

met with sympathy but little else.

When Yadin complained to a senior police officer that the police were not taking the matter seriously, the response was that when legislation is introduced to make copyright infringement punishable by a prison term, the police will take a more serious attitude, he said.

Yadin said he and his colleagues have collected data on 10 pirate companies, including the names and addresses of the people who operate them: the sound tracks which they lift, and the amount of money that they earn.

Yadin said that if the taxes owed by these pirates were diverted to the coffers of the Israel Broadcasting Authority, they would make an impressive difference to the IBA's annual budget.

To coincide with Gromyko-Shultz meeting:

Avital Shcharansky plans trip to Geneva

By JUDY SIEGEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Avital Shcharansky, wife of Prisoner of Zion Anatoly Shcharansky, is to go to Geneva next week to publicize the cause of Soviet Jewry. Her trip is timed to coincide with the meeting between U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko in the Swiss city.

Shcharansky, who has not seen her husband for 10 years, plans to hold a press conference to discuss the plight of her husband and other Soviet prisoners of conscience. "I will continue to do anything large or small, in the hope of getting Anatoly and the others out," she told *The Jerusalem Post* last night.

She would not say whether she would try to speak to Gromyko or Shultz. She has spoken to the latter several times.

Shcharansky, serving a 14-year sentence for alleged espionage on behalf of the U.S., has not been heard from since September, when he sent a letter to his family.

A Communist Party official in charge of labour camps has since told his mother, Ida Milgrom, that Anatoly was "in hospital," but he did not disclose any more information. Until then, the elderly woman had been told that he was in a labour camp in the Ural Mountains.

Friends of the aliyah activist, who health is reportedly poor, fear that he may be suffering harassment by the authorities, who recently physically abused another Prisoner of Zion, Yosef Bernstein.

Cleaner fuel at refineries a luxury—Shahal

By AARON SITTNER
Jerusalem Post Reporter

There is no need for the Haifa Refineries to change over entirely from high-sulphur fuel to the low-sulphur variety according to Energy Minister Moshe Shahal.

In a statement issued at the weekend, Shahal severely criticized "certain people in Haifa who are exploiting the air-pollution issue for political purposes without considering the high cost of low-sulphur fuels."

Shahal, himself from Haifa, did not identify the critics. If the refineries were to adapt their processes to low-sulphur fuel it would cost the

economy an "unnecessary" \$70 million a year, Shahal claimed.

To back up this claim, Shahal cited the report of a committee appointed last month by Prime Minister Peres to study the effects of the use of high-sulphur fuels by the refineries and the Electric Corporation.

The committee recommended the use of low-sulphur fuel on days when atmospheric conditions in Haifa are such that fumes from the refineries are not dispersed. Accordingly, the committee suggested that monitoring and control stations be established near the refineries' cracking plant (where crude oil is broken down to produce petrol). These sta-

tions would combine on-site air pollution readings with weather and wind-pattern forecasts supplied by the Transport Ministry's meteorological service.

The committee also recommended that responsibility for maintaining and operating the monitoring and control stations be placed in the hands of the refineries' management.

To keep track of the type of fuel being burned by the refineries, the committee recommended the appointment of a follow-up committee consisting of representatives of the Ministries of Energy, Health, Transport and Interior.

Five remanded again in 'Embassy plot'

TEL AVIV (Itim). — All five suspects arrested in an alleged conspiracy to attack the U.S. Embassy here have been remanded in custody for 15 days, and a remand-extension hearing in magistrate's court here yesterday.

Four of the suspects were remanded in custody for 15 days, and the remaining suspect for only 10 since he is under 18.

One of the suspects, 24, of Gaza, denied that he had confessed. But the police showed the judge the

confession he had signed before a military court judge.

Another suspect, 19, said he was sick and needed operations on his eye and back. "I'm miserable," he told the judge. "I have no mother or father."

The five were arrested earlier this month shortly before they were allegedly going to attack the embassy. Their names and a description of the weapons they were caught with have been barred from publication.

Nablus man treated
for shrapnel wounds

A 22-year-old Nablus man was treated at an East Jerusalem hospital on Saturday evening for shrapnel wounds in his leg.

Halil Yusef told police later that he had been standing in the centre of Hebron in a crowd when they heard an explosion and he was hit by fragments.

Police commanders in the area said that no explosion had been reported and that the man's story is being investigated. (Itim)

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1

A SMALL COUNTRY, surrounded on two sides by powerful Moslem states and on the rest by the sea this is Singapore. With fewer than three million inhabitants, about 80 per cent of them Chinese, Singapore faces Malaysia, with its 14 million people, across the narrow Johore Straits in the north, and borders on the vast Indonesian Archipelago, with a population of close to 200 million, across the Singapore Straits to the south and east.

Both Malaysians and Indonesians are predominantly Moslem. Although the current relations between the island republic and its neighbours appear cordial, it is this geostrategic location which determines the policy of Singapore's ruler, Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew. As his name indicates, he is Chinese, and it would be humanly impossible for him to forget or to ignore the large-scale massacres and persecutions perpetrated against the Chinese minority in both these neighbouring countries within living memory.

Founded just a century and a half ago by a British merchant adventurer, Sir Stamford Raffles, Singapore was originally intended as a South-east Asian Hongkong: a trading post, just off the mainland, situated close to the main trading highway, the Straits of Malacca, through which all maritime traffic from Europe, Asia and West Asia to the Far East must pass.

It prospered under British rule until the rude awakening of the Japanese invasion in the early stages of World War II.

THE TRAUMA of that invasion is still in the minds of the older inhabitants. Strange as it may seem, they do not blame the Japanese — whom they regard as bound by some law of nature to invade Singapore — but the British. The British who had for years fortified and prepared Singapore against naval attack, leaving

Netanel Lorch describes a recent visit to Singapore, where Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew won another sweeping victory at the polls.

Managing a miracle

the island vulnerable from the direction of Malaysia across the Johore Straits, less than a mile wide.

In their retreat from Malaya, the British had only partly demolished the causeway across the Straits, and it was soon repaired by Japanese engineers. The Japanese then invaded the island with the help of amphibious landing craft. The British garrison on the island incurred 70,000 casualties, mostly prisoners of war.

Although the people of Singapore were relatively well treated by the Japanese, anxious to utilize the human resources of the island, the memory of impotence in the face of the invaders, and of abandonment by allies, still rankles, and is a compelling force in determining Singapore's defensive posture: no territorial ambitions, no claims, no boundary disputes on the one hand; on the other, a strong Defence Force, based on two years' conscription, with the emphasis on naval and air power.

Last but not least, Singapore is allied with Australia, New Zealand, Thailand and Malaysia in a loose collective defence agreement which enables Singapore to train its ground forces in other countries. The 600 sq. kms. of the island are hardly ideal for training troops in modern warfare. AMONG THE 150-odd member

states of the UN, Singapore is unique in its form of administration and its economic miracle. Its administration is not so much that of a corporate state but of a corporation state. It is run like a well-managed corporation whose managing director, firm and intelligent, is the prime minister.

It is no coincidence that Lee Kuan Yew has surrounded himself with younger Harvard graduates in business administration. Singapore's parliament (the cleanest I have ever visited, which may be partly due to the fact that it is little used) is constructed on the Westminster model, with a government side and an opposition side; it differs primarily in that the opposition has only minuscule representation.

Planned democracy is hardly the type of democracy one is accustomed to in the West. However, if the proof of the pudding is in the eating, one cannot help feeling that, at least economically, it works. Singapore's GNP has been growing by leaps and bounds, between 6 and 10 per cent per annum. It has \$10b. in foreign currency reserves, and hardly any debts. Its port is still one of the four largest in the world. It is developing a major electronics industry and branching out into biochemical and other ultra-modern products. These industries are not the result of



R&D conducted in Singapore — they are the result of a judicious selection of technologies copied from abroad.

LEE KWAN YEW has turned Singapore into the cleanest city in the world — by a mixture of education and sanctions: the fine for throwing litter on the street is 500 Singapore dollars, about US\$250.

When a drug problem arose some time ago, dealers were hanged until the traffic stopped.

When the government required some land occupied by the Jewish cemetery, over 100 years old, for the construction of a subway, Lee Kwan Yew ordered the community to reinter its dead elsewhere — which, with the help of some people from the Hebra Kadisha in Jerusalem, was done. However, the prime minister compensated the Jewish community generously, in accordance with the current value of the land.

Lee Kwan Yew is interested in limiting population growth — lack of space is the overwhelming consideration. On the other hand, he learned that female university graduates have difficulty in finding suitable husbands, and he believes it is just these women who should have children. Consequently, a series of weekend seminars was organized for appropriate bachelor civil servants and academic women, with incen-

tives offered to encourage them to marry and multiply.

The Singapore climate is a debilitating one, and the air-conditioning installed in all the main buildings and hotels is only a partial answer. Plans have therefore been prepared to cover the whole city with a light "ceiling" and air-condition the entire area. This sounds like science fiction, but one cannot help feeling that if ever a city is to be air-conditioned, Singapore is likely to be the first one.

Enterprise is free — within the very rigid guidelines laid down by government. At the same time, welfare-state institutions flourish. Twenty-five per cent of salaries is paid to National Insurance. This, inter alia, finances public housing and provides each citizen, when he reaches the retirement age of 55, with a considerable lump sum in compensation, on which he can live comfortably.

Inter-communal harmony — between the Chinese majority, and the 14 per cent Malay and 7 per cent Tamil minorities — may be Singapore's major achievement. Lee Kwan Yew makes a point, in his public appearances, of speaking in all three languages as well as in English, which is still the official language and the lingua franca.

Strong doubts are being voiced in Singapore as to whether this "benevolent managerial" system of government will survive its founder. Obviously, it cannot serve as a model for other states with less docile inhabitants, and less compact territory. All the same, Singapore should be of interest to Israelis not only because of the small Jewish community whose valiant struggle for survival we should support, but also because — in a world which has increasingly become ungovernable — it can serve as a case study of the potentialities, and limitations, of government.

The writer is the former Knesset Clerk.

NOTHING is easier than to incur them. These small, common or garden variety compulsions, addictions and obsessions. Say that one morning you decide to move the blue ashtray from one of the living room shelves to the coffee table, never mind why. You move it, stand back to admire the effect and see, like the Almighty on His days of creation, that it is good.

Still, you are not alone in the house. You have a spouse, kids, and maybe a maid as well, all of whom have grown used over the years to seeing the blue ashtray on the shelf. That, as far as they are concerned, is where it belongs, and that is where they put it after use. You move it back to the table, and a day later find it on the shelf again.

AN ITALIAN nobleman, he lives by himself in a palace facing the Roman Forum. Visitors from the world over are welcome to stay there; but their urbane host will not see anybody before 5 p.m.

He writes philosophical essays and poetry — in French, which he considers the more musical language. Soon to turn 80, he does not travel, and does not allow his picture to be taken or biographical details to be released.

He lacks any interest in self-promotion, and his name is likely to draw a blank stare from many an erudite musician. And yet, last year in important German music magazine devoted an issue to his work, and concerts of his music have taken

Minor obsessions

RANDOMALIA/Miriam Arad

You move it to the table once more, possibly with a bang. Also maybe with a slight sense of indignation, a feeling of everyone's against me, but I'll be damned if I'll have this ashtray on the shelf, and voilà, there's your mini-obsession well on the way.

Ashtrays appear to be particularly obsession-prone altogether. Some housewives, and not even always the compulsive cleaners, can't bear to have ash in them. As soon as you've

stubbed out your cigarette, they whisk the thing away, empty and rinse it, and make you feel terrible about lighting another cigarette.

Obsessions about cleanliness occur in many varieties. They, too, are very easy to start, and you needn't kill a Duncan first. It may be enough to spot a person with black fingernails hanging on to a bus strap to give you a thing about heading straight, coated and hatted, from front-door to bathroom to wash your

hands after a bus ride. Sure, you have to be psychologically predisposed to such behaviour, but in our small way, we are all nuts.

THEN there are national obsessions; large ones such as xenophobia or isolationism, and smaller ones such as that we Israelis are all famous news freaks, and you know when that started. In carefree, pre-'67 days, we used to get our news served up by the radio three or four times a day, like all normal people. Then, in the tense waiting period of late May and early June, Kol Yisrael switched, first to two-hourly, then to hourly newscasts, and that's the way it has stayed ever since. The question remains, why do we listen?

One reason why we are all switch-happy is, of course, that life here is

just one damned thing after another, as the man said, though you may still ask why we can't wait an hour or two before hearing of the more recent terrorist bomb or economic disaster. The reason, as writer Amos Elon once pointed out, is that the average Israeli is made to feel guilty about not knowing. "What? You haven't heard the news?" is not a question here but a reproach, an accusation, as though you had been fiddling while Rome burnt.

Personally, I've tried to cure myself of this addiction, with the result that I feel as righteous when I skip a newscast as an alcoholic refusing a drink. Which is why Yom Kippur, the one day in the year that the whole country goes on the wagon, turns us all into saints.

concern for compositional techniques.

The deep influence of Eastern thought is felt in his music with its meditative serenity and hypnotizing inner calm. His early, prophetic turn from the complexities of serialism to exploration of the sound itself in its expressive potential accents both for the utmost delicacy and elemental power in his creations. MANY OF the exotic titles of his pieces are taken from Sanskrit, while the imagery deals with such matters as the heartbeat of Earth, to mention one (in *Okanagon* for amplified harp, gong and double bass).

"For Scelsi, imagination and sensitivity are the key values," says David Bloch, who spent several days with the fascinating man at his palace

last summer. "During our conversations in a rooftop garden, he would suggest I sit next to him and we would watch the stones in silence. He is against reading his poetry aloud. An individual can supply many different interpretations, whereas the spoken word forces a certain version."

The chronological span of the works in the New Music Group's programme (to be repeated at the Zionist Confederation House in Jerusalem five days later), encompasses 37 years (1937-74). The performers will be mezzo-soprano Emile Berendsen; flautist Wendy Eisler-Kashi; clarinetist Eli Heifetz; pianists Zmira Lutzky and David Bloch; and the cello-piano duo of Noreen and Philip Silver.

are remarkably under-represented in the band, which has provided a wonderful opportunity for young musicians in development towns and far-flung locales.

Jimmy Reynolds has certainly trained his players. This was seen in their amazing precision, clean intonation and dynamic shades, in their rich, mellow sonorities and musical phrasing. There was no need to consider extenuating considerations to explain shortcomings, for there were no shortcomings. The enjoyment was complete.

Guest artist Rami Bar-Niv, performed the solo piano in Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* with dexterity and rhythmic precision, and the band, under the watchful eyes of Jimmy Reynolds, collaborated with him like old troopers.

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Homage to Scelsi

By ELI KAREV / Special to The Jerusalem Post

place in Italy, England and the U.S. Tomorrow, the Israeli musical community is to be offered a rare chance to join this exclusive circle, as the Group for New Music, directed by David Bloch, will mark the 80th birthday of Giacinto Scelsi with a retrospective concert at the Tel Aviv Museum. Scelsi is a prolific composer with more than 100 works to his credit. American composer Morton Feldman has called him "the Charles Ives of Italy."

Previous annual offerings of the Group for New Music have been dedicated to George Crumb, Henri Pousseur and Stefan Wolpe. The current project by the group may well prove the most ambitious to date. For, unlike most composers of our day, Scelsi does not articulate his artistic goals or explain his music. Viewing himself as the means for realization in sound of the transcendental, he negates the composer's creative individuality and shows no

Award winner

MUSIC REVIEWS

Miss Tadson's technical excellence has never been in doubt, but now, in the Scriabin, there was musical consequence and, no less important, she activated her muscles — suddenly there was sound and volume and strength of touch. But I totally disapproved of her playing the four pieces (*Vers La Flamme*, Op.72; *Two Dances*, Op.73; *Five Preludes*, Op.74; *Waltz*, Op.38) without even the shortest break, as if Scriabin had intended them to create one sequence. The pieces flowed one into the other, which blurred their independence and even their form. Though opuses 72-73 and 74 are indeed close in style and even motif, their merger, I feel, obliterates their individuality. This kind of poetic licence does no justice to the composer and also prevented Miss Tadson from probing the differential qualities of the pieces.

An impressive Petrouschka Suite concluded the concert.
BENJAMIN BAR-AM

NATIONAL YOUTH BAND. Prof. Jimmy Reynolds conducting with Rami Bar-Niv (Oud). *Shema*, Tel. Aviv, December 25. *Shantok*, *Festive Overture*, *Gilbert*, *Dance of the Red Sailors*, *Chances*, *Variations on a Korean Folk Tune*, *Gershwin*, *Rhapsody in Blue*, *"Nofim"*, Israeli songs, arranged by Nahman Yark.

THE NATIONAL Youth Band of nearly 60 players chosen from some 20 locations, from Dimona to Acre, prepared an ambitious programme in a five-day holiday camp at Hadasim Youth Village. This programme was sponsored by Matan, the Arts and Culture Project for Youth. The results were ear-opening, and I say this as someone who has been involved with youth bands for 25 years and watched Matan, in particular. The progress made during the last few years is absolutely amazing.

From ambivalent, brassy, popular oompah-oompah, we have progressed to a representative national youth band that could proudly represent Israel in any international gathering. Significantly the big cities

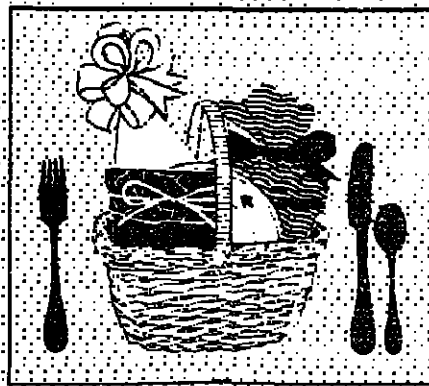
The first inside account of the "war with no victors", this provocative Israeli bestseller, originally titled "Milchemet Sholei", is a full and graphic documentation of the war's history and developments including its origins, its conduct and the quagmire of its aftermath. Two of Israel's most respected journalists wrote this extraordinary, remarkably detailed narrative, basing it on information from inside sources "with precision and sensitivity...an exhaustive study that is likely to endure as the definitive book on the Lebanon War."

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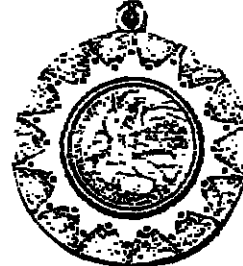
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trusted tool of Israel Bonds could have been revamped and massively expanded to bring in very much larger sums - from both individuals and institutions in the U.S. and possibly elsewhere. The banks, it has been said, effectively torpedoed the implementation of such a scheme, which would have interfered with their own expansion. A commission of inquiry into the banking industry would better serve the country if it investigated this issue - and others like it - rather than concentrating on the easy and popular "problems," like whether this or that senior official sold his shares on October 5, 1983.

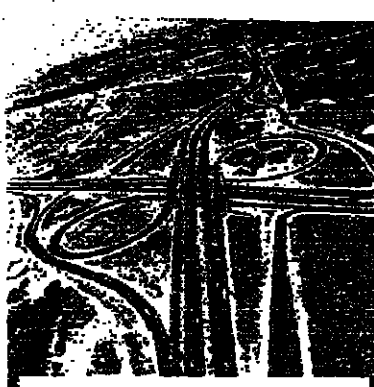
In short, the real issue of the banks' overseas operations is at the very heart of the "Objective Circumstances - Sovereign State" argument - whether the banks are, as they claim, the agents of the state, or whether the situation is quite the opposite, as the critics contend.

But that is hardly the end of the controversy. The remainder of the argument is purely business-oriented. Even if it is granted that there is a legitimate case for Israeli banks seeking to establish themselves abroad (and even this minimalist assumption is not allowed by those who contend that almost everything done through branches and subsidiaries could be achieved at far less cost through representative offices and correspondent banks) the question of how remains. What method of operations should the banks employ to achieve their ends?

The answer will depend, obviously, on exactly what these ends are. If the end is simply size of balance sheet and growth of deposits, then the opening of as many branches as possible, in as many places as possible, will certainly achieve it. But (here again is one of those very big "buts" that keep cropping up) the regulatory authorities in most foreign countries are tougher than the Bank of Israel, insisting that banks operating in their patch should have "adequate" capital as a percentage of total assets (capital/assets ratios). Since these requirements are usually higher than the levels common in Israel, Israeli banks which open foreign subsidiaries always have needed to export their own money to establish and bolster their foreign operations. The assumption was that the money was an investment, that the business results would justify the outflow of foreign currency and that, ultimately, the profits would be repatriated to the benefit of all.

But that was not usually the case. The hoped-for profits were not always easy to come by. And even when they did materialize, they usually stayed put, since bringing them back to Israel meant giving them to the Treasury as tax. Particularly in recent years, foreign regulators have tended to increase their capital requirements, forcing much of the profit straight into reserves, to improve the capital/assets ratio. In the last year, the Bank of Israel has prevented Israeli banks from sending abroad any more foreign currency to beef-up old subsidiaries or open new ones. This has forced the banks to give up dreams of further expansion. In some cases, they are even reducing the scale of their existing operations; if their capital can't grow, they have no choice but to reduce their assets.

It may be seen that size, *per se*, is a difficult criterion to apply. In fact, banking theory usually employs



Israeli banking at the crossroads (IX)
(Continued from Page One)

quite different criteria to foreign and home operations. This is commonly referred to as the difference between "wholesale" and "retail" banking.

Retail banking means having a large number of branches or outlets with very many customers, most of them small. A widespread operation like this is costlier to run, but it allows for wider profit margins. It also provides a much firmer base: a large number of small depositors are more reliable than a small number of large depositors, who will readily desert to a rival for a fractional and temporary advantage. Wholesale banking, in contradistinction, means concentrating on larger customers, usually corporations, with a narrower deposit base of relatively few, but major, depositors. Such a structure reduces overheads, since fewer outlets are necessary, and allows for greater specialization.

In any economy and banking system, both types of banks are necessary, since both forms of service must be provided. It is vital, however, for each individual bank to know what it is trying to be, and to concentrate on that and not attempt to take on roles it is not built for. (It is arguable that in Israel there is no need and no room for five banking groups, all operating primarily on the retail end for deposits, with only Hapoalim seeing itself as a wholesale bank for credit.)

Although there must always be retail banks, it is unusual to find a bank setting up a retail operation away from home. It is also illogical. The broad spread of contact with a large customer base that characterizes retail banking is most easily and effectively achieved by a local, rather than a foreign, bank. Where logic and practice dictate caution, and others fear to tread, Bank Leumi has rushed in regardless.

Of all the controversial issues raised in this series, not one came near producing a consensus view. People who expressed views produced a range of positions: there was always the one hand and the other hand, and often the third and fourth as well. Except on the question of how to operate abroad. Here, a clear-cut line-up emerged: the wholesale approach was favoured by all the banks except one, by all the outside analysts, by the Bank of Israel; it was also the accepted wisdom of the world banking industry. In favour of retailing services was a minority of one - Bank Leumi.

It is worthwhile to examine this wholesale-retail argument in detail. It casts much light on how ideology and business share the same bed in

Israeli banking, as well as throwing into sharp relief those issues of accountability and control which lie at the root of all the industry's ills.

Underlying Bank Leumi's overseas operations is the bank's philosophy. It sees itself as the universal bank, not only of Israel, but of the Jewish People wherever they may be. This is not surprising. The bank was founded as the Jewish Colonial Trust in London at the turn of the century. Its first local branch was in Jaffa, but Beirut was among its initial ports of call. It has always sought to create and strengthen links between Diaspora Jewry and the Yishuv, and later the State.

In other words, Leumi always was an international bank. When the big expansion of the Seventies came, Leumi's strategy was to establish its presence in more and more Jewish centres around the world, and to broaden its base where it already existed. This was done through an unequivocal policy of retail branches, opened on the high streets of the cities chosen, and openly vying for customers of every stripe, including small savers and housewives as well as local businessmen, importers and exporters.

Two places where this policy is most pronounced are London and New York. In the former, Leumi runs three outlets in the three main Jewish suburban communities, offering all the services that any high-street bank is expected to provide. In New York, Leumi's subsidiary boasts of no fewer than 26 branches, following the purchase of 18 branches from the local Bankers Trust Company in 1982. This massive presence covers every Jewish area and quite a few non-Jewish ones as well, and makes Leumi a major feature on the New York banking scene.

Leumi management admit that setting up and attracting customers to such an enormous outfit was a long and costly process, but they adamantly insist that the fruits of this investment are now beginning to become evident. Because they have many small depositors, their cost of funds is lower overall, and this wide customer base provides a great measure of stability. They quote the example of Continental Illinois, the giant Chicago bank that collapsed within days last spring, when rumours of trouble panicked its depositors into withdrawing their money. Had C.I. not been a wholesale bank, dependent on a fairly small circle of interbank depositors each carrying great weight, many analysts contend it would not have crumbled so quickly.

Above all, Leumi points proudly to the statistics that show it has over half of the foreign deposits held by the whole Israeli banking system, and that it similarly has more than 50 per cent of the connections with other banks around the world. Our method of doing business, says Leumi, is harder to build up and costlier to run, but in the long run its advantages outweigh its drawbacks and it is just as profitable as wholesale banking.

Every one of these claims is fiercely disputed, or rejected out of hand, by the legions of critics of Leumi's foreign strategy. The ideology of "serving the Jewish people" is dismissed as an institutional mania that has plagued Leumi for decades. Analysts insist that there is no such thing as "ethnic banking." Are there

Italian banks all over New York City, or Irish or Indian banks in Britain's towns and cities? The purchase of the Bankers Trust branches is ridiculed from every angle - the price was far too high, the very fact that a large local bank decided to close its retail operations and "go wholesale" should have been a warning, and the result was very high costs and tremendous problems with management at the individual branch level. In essence, says everyone outside Leumi, a foreign bank - Israeli or not - has no business taking on Citibank or Barclays on their home ground. The results do not justify the effort and resources expended.

The case of Continental Illinois is totally irrelevant, in this view. That bank failed, it is said, not because it had a wholesale orientation, but because it was completely wholesale, even in Chicago itself. Banks like Leumi have a large home base to operate as retailers, and their overseas activities should be strictly wholesale. As for Leumi's large market share, that is primarily the result of the length and breadth of Leumi's presence abroad. In any case, who cares if Leumi is bigger, the critics say. The question ultimately is whether bigger is more effective and more profitable, and here the answer is almost certainly negative.

Extreme wholesale banking, in the form of a small office, not even on street level, with a limited staff which concentrates on very specific areas, is also uncommon among Israeli banks abroad. Perhaps the archetypal foreign operation is that of Discount, whose subsidiary, Discount Bank of New York, is housed in one large and imposing building on Fifth Avenue, from which all business is conducted. This significant, but strictly limited presence, has proved its efficacy over more than 25 years of activity - now more than ever, perhaps, since so much of the profit of all the banks will come this year from foreign operations.

The current trend among all the banks, except Leumi, is to proceed along strictly wholesale lines (there are exceptions, such as Discount's outlets in Uruguay). The non-availability of extra capital to expand further is likely to strengthen this trend even more.

Given the basic fact that over one-third of the total assets of the Israeli banking system are now held by their foreign branches and subsidiaries, the question is not whether they should grow more, but whether and where they should pull back. Why, for example, does Bank Leumi need an enormous operation in France, with branches in Paris and many provincial cities as well?

Suppose, however, that Bank Leumi's critics are entirely correct and that its approach is quite wrong. So what? Of what concern is it to anyone else? Why can't every bank do what it sees fit, and let the results speak for themselves?

Because, comes the answer, they have already done as they saw fit, and the results have spoken loud and clear for themselves. Now the whole country cannot avoid being involved in determining the future of the banks. Because, you see, we - the taxpaying citizenry - are going to own the banks. And if we own them, we should also control them.

But it doesn't quite work that way, as will soon be made clear.

Index bonds in the spotlight

TEL AVIV. - The index-linked bond market was in the spotlight yesterday as end-of-the-month buying by the banks, in cover of the saving schemes which they have sold to the public, pushed up prices by as much as 4.5 per cent in the various groups. The "double-option" bonds in some groups, were up by as much as 0.5 per cent, and the Gilboa bonds zipped ahead up to 7 per cent.

The short-term loan market traded at yield levels which were between 8.50 and 9.58 per cent. These short term papers issued by the Bank of Israel reflected somewhat higher yields being offered by the banking community for *pakim* fixed short-term shekel deposits. Turnovers in bond trading rose accordingly, as prices advanced and totalled nearly \$1.4 billion.

Trading on the share market continued to be influenced by the end-of-the-year tax situations as well as buying on the part of the mutual funds, which were in their pitching so as to improve their quarterly performances. As a result, the General Share Index advanced by 3.5 per cent.

However, the hybrid bank shares, part of the "arrangement" were clearly the winners in yesterday's trading session as they advanced on a sectoral basis by 5.01 per cent. Gains in this particular group ranged higher by as much as 10 per cent, as was the case with Hapoalim Preferred. The ordinary shares of the commercial banks rose by margins of up to

MARKET COMMENT

By JOSEPH MORGENSTERN

7.3 per cent.

Among bankholding companies the Danot IS1.0 and IS5.0 shares were unchanged as sellers offered large blocks of stock, but these were absorbed with relative ease.

In the industrial sector Eitan was traded in a highly volatile fashion and advanced by 15 per cent. In the investment company group, the Hiron IS5.0 shares advanced by a similar amount.

A sign of the times and reflecting the low level of trading experienced by the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange in 1984, was the announcement of a decision by the exchange board of directors to approve the budget for 1985 in the total of \$1.9 billion. This is the equivalent of \$3.8 million in October 1984 prices.

The approved budget is in effect 17 per cent lower in real terms than that of 1984.

Announcements
Mahadrin - The board of directors of the exchange gave the company an additional extension for the filing of its financial results, until January 15, 1985. If the reports are not received by then, trading in them will be halted.

Rubinstein Contractors - The board of directors of the exchange

was advised that the investigations into the flotation of the shares of this company may not yet have been completed. Part of the findings, however, were passed on for further investigation to the Securities Authority. In the meantime, trading was halted yesterday in these shares until such time as technical preparations may be completed for arranging computerized trading.

Sahar Development - announced payment of a cash dividend of 50 per cent.

Rogovin Building - announced bonus shares of 100 per cent.

MARKET STATISTICS

Indices

General Share Index	687.65	+3.52%
Non-Bank Index	511.72	+0.11%
Arrangement	512.22	+5.01%
Industrial	558.50	+0.29%
Bond Index	569.45	+2.81%

Turnovers

Shares	182,242 tm
Bonds	154,997.7m
Totals	156,840.3m
Advances	215
Declines	127
of which 5% +	40
of which 5% -	18
"Buyers only"	18
"Sellers only"	11

Bond market trends

3% fully-linked	Rose to 3.7%
3% fully-linked	Rose to 2.5%
3% fully-linked	Moved to 2.5%
3% fully-linked	Moved to 2.5%
3% fully-linked	Moved to 2.5%
3% fully-linked	Moved to 2.5%
3% fully-linked	Moved to 2.5%
3% fully-linked	Moved to 2.5%
3% fully-linked	Moved to 2.5%
3% fully-linked	Moved to 2.5%

Most Active Shares

Leumi	10220	18337	1m.	-250
IDB	2750	18224	4m.	-410
Hapoalim	16100	18227	3m.	-475

Tel Aviv Stock Exchange daily price quotations

Company	Price	Change	Volume	Company	Price	Change	Volume
Commercial Banks				Hotels, Tourism			
(not part of "arrangement")				(not part of "arrangement")			
OHH R	8240	-2 +0.6		GalZohar 1	121	+0.8	100
Maritime 1	2495	307		GalZohar 2	121	+0.8	100
Maritime 2	1681	176	+4.6	Hotels 1	121	+0.8	100
Maritime 3	8490	52	-2.2	Hotels 2	121	+0.8	100
N. Amer. 1	2755	39	+0.6	Hotels 3	121	+0.8	100
N. Amer. 2	1570	48	+0.6	Hotels 4	121	+0.8	100
N. Amer. 3	3210	26	n.c.	Hotels 5	121	+0.8	100
N. Amer. 4	8126	n.c.		Hotels 6	121	+0.8	100
Danot 1	148	1452	n.c.	Hotels 7	121	+0.8	100
Danot 2	1035	2024	+3.6	Hotels 8	121	+0.8	100
Danot 3	1035	2024	+3.6	Hotels 9	121	+0.8	100
FIBI	425	1580	+4.8	Hotels 10	121	+0.8	100
Commercial Banks				Computers			
(part of "arrangement")				(part of "arrangement")			
IDB 1	26230	1001	+7.3	Hilom 1	157	126	+0.4
IDB 2	26600	10	+7.3	Hilom 2	2676	32	+5.1
IDB 3	166500	10	+4.6	Y'a'ane	1424	-0.1	-3.0
Union 1	18850	180	+2.4	Y'a'ane 2	1070	140	n.c.
Discount B.R.	33050	40	+6.3	Chal C	1010	312	n.c.
Discount A.R.	32220	733	+3.5	Chal C 2	960	56	+20.0
B.C. Ben	3090	84	+2.9	M.L.L. 1	3100	14	n.c.
Mizrahi 1	10700	1122	+5.5	M.L.L. 2	1194	103	+7.7
Mizrahi 2	10700	1122	+5.5	M.L.L. 3	1194	103	+7.7
Mizrahi 3	4980	43	+4.6	M.L.L. 4	1194	103	+7.7
Hapoalim 1	36300	2	+10.0	M.L.L. 5	1194	103	+7.7
Hapoalim 2	17230	1349	+3.3	M.L.L. 6	1194	103	+7.7
Hapoalim 3	16650	63	+4.8	M.L.L. 7	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C	n.c.	n.c.		M.L.L. 8	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 1	44505	1	+5.3	M.L.L. 9	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 2	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 10	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 3	43300	2	+2.9	M.L.L. 11	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 4	33410	7	+3.1	M.L.L. 12	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 5	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 13	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 6	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 14	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 7	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 15	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 8	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 16	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 9	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 17	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 10	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 18	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 11	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 19	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 12	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 20	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 13	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 21	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 14	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 22	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 15	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 23	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 16	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 24	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 17	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 25	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 18	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 26	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 19	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 27	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 20	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 28	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 21	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 29	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 22	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 30	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 23	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 31	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 24	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 32	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 25	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 33	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 26	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 34	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 27	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 35	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 28	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 36	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 29	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 37	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 30	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 38	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 31	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 39	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 32	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 40	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 33	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 41	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 34	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 42	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 35	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 43	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 36	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 44	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 37	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 45	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 38	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 46	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 39	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 47	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 40	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 48	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 41	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 49	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 42	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 50	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 43	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 51	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 44	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 52	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 45	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 53	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 46	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 54	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 47	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 55	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 48	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 56	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 49	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 57	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 50	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 58	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 51	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 59	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 52	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 60	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 53	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 61	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 54	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 62	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 55	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 63	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 56	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 64	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 57	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 65	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 58	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 66	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 59	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 67	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 60	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 68	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 61	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 69	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 62	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 70	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 63	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 71	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 64	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 72	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 65	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 73	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 66	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 74	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 67	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 75	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 68	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 76	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 69	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 77	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 70	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 78	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 71	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 79	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 72	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 80	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 73	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 81	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 74	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 82	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 75	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 83	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 76	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 84	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 77	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 85	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 78	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 86	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 79	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 87	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 80	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 88	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 81	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 89	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 82	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 90	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 83	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 91	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 84	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 92	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 85	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 93	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 86	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 94	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 87	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 95	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 88	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 96	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 89	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 97	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 90	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 98	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 91	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 99	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 92	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 100	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 93	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 101	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 94	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 102	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 95	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 103	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 96	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 104	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 97	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 105	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 98	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 106	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 99	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 107	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 100	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 108	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 101	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 109	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 102	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 110	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 103	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 111	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 104	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 112	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 105	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 113	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 106	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 114	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 107	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 115	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 108	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 116	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 109	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 117	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 110	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 118	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 111	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 119	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 112	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 120	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 113	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 121	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 114	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 122	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 115	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 123	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 116	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 124	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 117	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 125	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 118	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 126	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 119	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 127	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 120	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 128	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 121	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 129	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 122	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 130	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 123	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 131	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 124	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 132	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 125	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 133	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 126	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 134	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 127	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 135	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 128	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 136	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 129	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 137	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 130	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 138	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 131	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 139	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 132	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 140	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 133	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 141	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 134	15520	43	+3.3	M.L.L. 142	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 135	111100	1	+5.5	M.L.L. 143	1194	103	+7.7
Gen. C 136	15520						

THE JERUSALEM POST

Adith Editor and Managing Director

Erwin Frenkel Editor

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Mr. Modai's tale of woe

FINANCE MINISTER Yitzhak Modai again came under attack at the cabinet yesterday from the same strange coalition within a coalition of talkative ministers - Mordechai Gur, Moshe Katsav and the ever-declamatory David Levy.

Once again, Mr. Modai was taken to task for not having submitted a comprehensive economic programme. His retort to that was, quite properly, that if economic policy is to be based on an accord between the government, the Histadrut and the employers, there can be no programme to be presented to the cabinet; rather it will receive for its approval an agreement when that is concluded. The Finance Minister has evidently realized that a unilaterally decided government programme and a consensual accord are mutually exclusive. That realization does not yet seem to have dawned on his colleagues in the cabinet.

However, the verbal barrage against Mr. Modai was primarily aimed at the implications of the budget cuts. Gur, Katsav and Levy accused the Finance Minister of pursuing an economic policy in which unemployment is the immediate objective and the main instrument for solving the economic crisis.

The missiles which these ministers fired off were directed at Mr. Modai, but there is reason to suspect that they were aimed as well at Prime Minister Peres who determines the scope of economic policy and its constraints.

Mr. Modai's critics have a point here. Budget cuts cannot but mean unemployment and, despite all the optimistic declarations to the contrary, there can be no swift re-employment of those who are thrown out of work. Strangely enough, the ministers who now criticize the Finance Minister and, by implication, the Prime Minister himself, did not voice their protest when they voted for budget cuts or accepted them.

Quite a number of the ministers have apparently deluded themselves that budget cuts can be made painlessly, without creating unemployment, or that by some hocus-pocus the unemployed would be taken up immediately by export industries starved of manpower. The rise in industrial unemployment caused by what is so far still a mild recession should have taught them some time ago that industry is unable to switch in short order from the domestic market to exports. It is therefore unable to retain its own workforce, let alone absorb manpower from the public service.

This inability to understand and face the consequences of budget cuts may in part explain the failure to implement them - a failure on which Mr. Modai yesterday reported at length to the cabinet.

It is, however, strange that the finance minister should come to the cabinet complaining that the solemn resolutions to slash public spending have not been implemented. He seems to be trying to blame his colleagues for his own failure to implement the government's resolutions, or for his failure to withstand the pressures from other ministers. The difficulty in getting them to agree to budget cuts might have been a legitimate cause for complaint in the full cabinet; the failure to implement decisions already taken is entirely the finance minister's own.

Individual ministers do not, after all, have funds of their own which they can spend at will. The contracts they sign and the commitments they undertake have to be approved by the accountant-general: the cash they can spend is what they receive from the accountant-general. If they spend more than what has been allocated to them, it is because Mr. Modai, to whom the accountant-general is responsible, provides them with the wherewithal to do so. He can, therefore, blame no one but himself.

There may, of course, be another explanation: that the Treasury does not know what the ministries spend until after the event, because high inflation has made budget control totally ineffective. If that is the case, the individual ministries also may not know what they actually spend until after the event, and again Mr. Modai has no case for laying the non-performance of economic management at their door.

Perhaps the conclusion which the finance minister should at last draw is that the management of the budget, and with it the entire economy, must switch over to a stable unit of account as a precondition for bringing the ultimate causes of inflation and balance of payments difficulties under control.

So far, the chief opponent of providing the economy with a firm monetary anchor - misleadingly identified with Yoram Aridor's "dollarization" - has been Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai himself. The sooner he abandons this opposition, the less cause will he have to come to the cabinet with reports of failure.

Economic smokescreen

By ROY ISACOWITZ

THE GOVERNMENT'S hopeless inability to come up with a comprehensive economic policy was highlighted last Thursday in speeches delivered by Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai and Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon. Addressing two separate lunchtime audiences in Tel Aviv, Modai and Sharon proposed diametrically opposed solutions to the country's economic crisis.

While Modai rejected "dollarization" and maintained that the shekel was strong enough to stand on its own, Sharon said that he had no doubt that dollarization would be implemented. Modai stated flatly that taxes would have to be raised; Sharon expressed the opinion that taxes should be reduced drastically. Like everyone else, Modai and Sharon are welcome to their opinions. It is a little disheartening, however, when the holders of the two major economic portfolios differ so absolutely on essential issues - and that at a time when economic policy should have long been enunciated and implemented.

The package deal is now entering its final leg, with a massive price explosion in the offering in early February unless something is done immediately. Yet the country's economic policy-makers are apparently unable to agree on what further steps should be taken.

And it is not only the cabinet

ministers who are confused. According to Histadrut officials who have met repeatedly in recent weeks with government officials and their advisers, the "Gang of Three" professors advising the government - and who accompanied the recent economic delegation to the U.S. - are also separated by wide differences of opinion.

The differences apparently cover the gamut of economic issues confronting the government - monetary reform, budget cuts, taxation policy, unemployment and so on.

To date, the government has not presented any economic plan to the Histadrut for its approval, despite the continuous contacts between the two sides. Likewise, the manufacturers maintain that none of the measures publicly mentioned by Modai and other government representatives has been formally presented to them for consideration.

In fact, Deputy Prime Minister David Levy said last week that no economic plan has been brought before the cabinet for debate. In place of policy, we have a deluge of Treasury leaks and wild - and often contradictory - statements from government representatives.

Senior Histadrut officials are fed up with the government's tardiness. As each new day of government inaction goes by, they say, the chances decrease that new measures

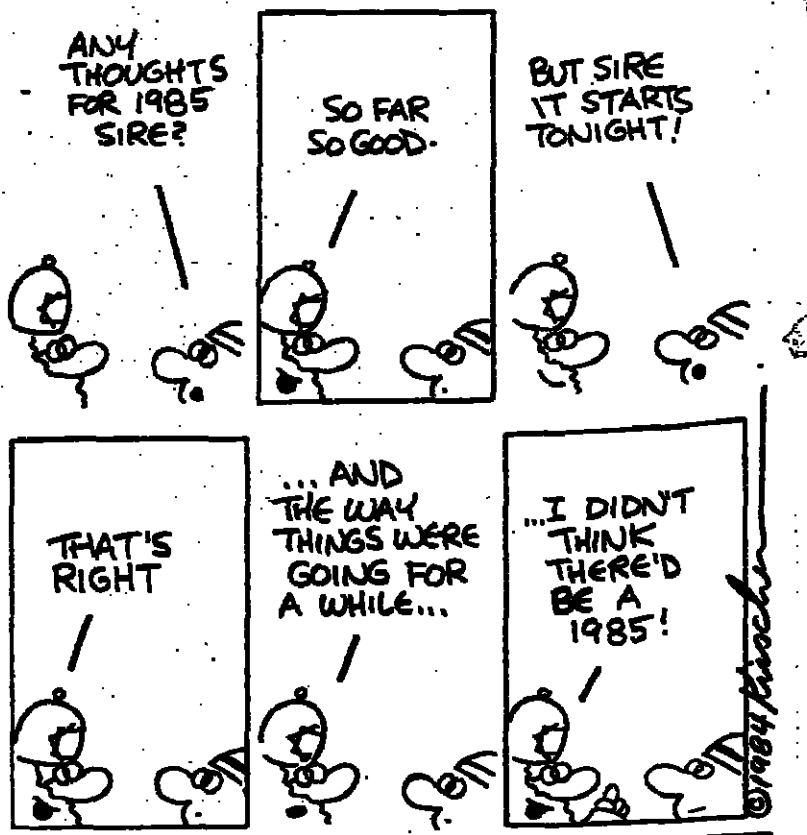
will be able to "bite" by the time the current package deal expires.

THEY CHARGE the government with having failed to fulfill its package deal obligations, while threatening further hardships for the workers. Specifically, the Histadrut maintains that the government's failure to levy the agreed-on tax on the self-employed was a "betrayal of a trust," while its failure to cut its budget has made a mockery of its self-proclaimed austerity programme.

The Histadrut is demanding deep budget cuts, knowing full well that the inevitable result of such cuts would be unemployment and hardship for the workers. Secretary-General Yisrael Kessar and the pragmatists he has gathered around him are sufficiently well versed in economics to know that, in the long run, budget cuts are unavoidable. They maintain, however, that the resources released by budget cuts must be channelled to investment in industry, particularly in development areas, for the creation of new jobs.

A dense fog has settled over the government's economic activities, punctuated only by self-serving leaks from the various factions. It is tempting to believe that the fog is a deliberate smokescreen, behind which the government is diligently and successfully preparing a programme. It is more likely, however,

Dry Bones



that the fog is caused by the government kicking up sand into its own face.

The leeway available to the government in which to present a plan must be measured in days and hours. Histadrut officials say. If serious negotiations are not in progress by the end of this week, they say, all the good reaped by the package deal is

likely to be dissipated. But the chances of a comprehensive, well-thought-out plan being presented in the very near future would appear to be slim, to judge by the inconsistent statements of the men involved.

The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff.

Moscow's machinations

By SHLOMO SLONIM

Talks were to be conducted directly between the parties, under the friendly sponsorship of the U.S.

The Geneva Conference, under the joint chairmanship of the Soviet Union and the U.S. was duly convened in December 1973 in accordance with the requirements of Security Council resolution 338. But this was only window-dressing. After the interim settlement in 1974, which brought about the opening of the Suez Canal, matters became congealed and no further breakthroughs on the road to peace were recorded.

Misreading the situation, President Carter and his secretary of state, Cyrus Vance, assumed that the only way to break the logjam was to invite the Russians back. Nothing, of course, could be further from the truth. As the late Henry Jackson said: "The fox is back in the chicken coop."

Sadat not only recognized this fact; he acted upon it. Even before the ink was dry in the 1977 joint Soviet-American call for a reconvening of the Geneva Conference, Sadat resolved the stalemate by announcing his intention to fly to Jerusalem and address the Knesset.

The tree of American-Egyptian co-operation planted by Sadat and Kissinger in 1974 was now about to bear fruit in the form of the first peace negotiations to be conducted between Israel and an Arab state. Camp David and the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty were direct consequences of the 1974 decision to isolate the Egyptian-Israeli dispute from superpower rivalry.

IS THERE anything in the present state of affairs which warrants a change from the fundamental approach of allowing the parties to the dispute to settle matters by direct negotiations? These negotiations, it is clear, have been significantly enhanced by the role of the U.S. as an honest broker: some would even say that the American role has been indispensable. Egypt and Israel have a shared confidence that Washington is dedicated to a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute and aspires to the improved welfare and security of both countries. Does the same hold true for the Soviet Union?

No one denies that the Soviet Union has important interests in the Middle East; in fact, no other power actually borders on the region as does the USSR. But what is its attitude to the parties? Can it be said that Moscow exudes goodwill to both sides in the dispute and seeks their common good and security?

The record speaks for itself. Moscow has repeatedly proclaimed that it endorses the right of all states in the Middle East to exist in peace. This specifically includes Israel, the Russians declare. Yet last month, the Soviet delegate to the UN General Assembly voted to deny Israel's credentials to the world body.

How does this action square with the claim that Israel's right to untrammelled existence is unimpeachable? Does not a right to exist in peace include, as a minimum, the right of a state to be represented in a world forum by the freely elected government of its choice?

Russia's conduct in the UN is but a reflection of its relations with Israel generally. For some 17 years now, Moscow has not had diplomatic ties with Israel. Following the Six Day War, the Soviet Union and its satellites broke off diplomatic relations with Israel, which they denounced as the aggressor. More than anyone else, Moscow knew how false that charge was. Nonetheless, the Kremlin has not seen fit, despite the passage of time, to make amends and find some excuse for re-establishing ties with Israel.

AND IN considering Moscow's attitude, can Jerusalem be oblivious of

the Soviet government's oppression of its Jewish population? The cruel treatment meted out to such Prisoners of Zion as Anatoly Shcharansky and Yosef Begun hardly requires an acknowledgement that Jews, like Israel itself, have a right to live in peace - whether they wish to remain in the Soviet Union or emigrate to Israel.

Can the Israeli government contemplate with equanimity Russian involvement in the peace process when every Russian move is designed to suppress the Jewish state and deny the right of Jews to emigrate there and live in freedom?

Let us pose this question: Would Russia's leaders agree to meet in a conference with a state (let alone a world power) which refuses to maintain diplomatic relations with Moscow, which seeks to delegitimize the Soviet Union by having it excluded from UN bodies and, moreover, which persecutes and tyrannizes people of Russian extraction living within its borders?

A conference chaired by both the Soviet Union and the U.S. would be fatally flawed from the start. In contrast to the U.S. which can serve as a neutral umpire in the search for peace, the Soviet Union can only be regarded as one further protagonist in the struggle against the Jewish state. Far from promoting direct talks between the parties - the proven method for securing peace - Moscow would be in a position to wring concessions from favour of its client states.

Given its present stance, it could not possibly serve as mediator. It is time that the United Nations ceased acting like a party to the Arab-Israeli dispute and assumed the role of a responsible world power. Protests of the right of Jews to a state of their own are not enough. Actions speak louder than words.

Dr. Slonim teaches international relations at the Hebrew University.

READERS LETTERS

SADISM AS ENTERTAINMENT

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, - A few days after the funeral of Hadass Kedmi, I saw on a billboard over a movie theatre in Jerusalem a giant painting showing a woman's hand manacled to an iron bar, fingers spread out in agony. An advertisement for a spectacle of torture and murder.

In the U.S. where the film in question was made, sadistic murder has become a national pastime, thanks in large part to the prevalence of such "entertainments." Among a people that remembers Auschwitz, what possible arguments can be advanced for countenancing the dissemination of such images as entertainment? Freedom of speech? But freedom of speech was originally instituted in order to protect the social dialogue and ensure redress of grievances.

Incitements to brutality endanger the social dialogue by spreading violence and fear. People who live in fear do not speak freely. These images have the same root as Nazism, whether or not they wear the swastika. They should be banned, before we lose the humanity on which our national identity depends.

ESTHER CAMERON Jerusalem.

NOISES, ANNOYING AND DANGEROUS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, - I want to congratulate The Jerusalem Post and Helga Dudman for emphasizing the problem of noise in our society.

Unfortunately, the article fails to distinguish properly between noise that is annoying and that which can damage hearing. Only levels in excess of 85 decibels are potentially ear-damaging, as recognized in all legislation on noise damage in Western nations. Were 60 dB or even 70 dB damaging it would be dangerous for our ears each time we speak, since our own voices, measured at our own ears register between 70 and 80 dB on the sound level meter.

Most of the noises which bother us, such as the neighbour's air conditioner, are an annoyance, and as such can alter our physiological functions, although there is no convincing evidence that this is more than nature's defensive response to the environment.

By far the most damaging cause of ear damage in Israel is the exposure to explosive noises in the necessary army experience, where a

shocking number of our soldiers suffer early permanent hearing loss. Certainly the reduction of unwanted noises is a highly desirable goal for our society in general because of the annoyance factor. Dudman's timely piece should help those of us who have been working for a long time to bring about determined and forceful corrective approaches against the most dangerous noises, such as that of highly amplified music and particularly from the most clearly damaging, the explosive sounds of the military experience.

MOE BERGMAN, Ed.D. Professor of Audiology, School for Communication Disorders, Sackler School of Medicine, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv.

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POSTSCRIPTS

PS JERUSALEM Mayor Teddy Kollek discovered something amiss at the recent official opening of the impressive renovated Roman gate and piazza beneath Damascus Gate: accompanying all of the photographs depicting the history of the gate, only Hebrew and English explanations were included - no Arabic.

Teddy's ire knew no bounds. "Mistakes, mistakes," he said. "I've been hearing that excuse for 17 years. It's intolerable, especially when the site is located in the middle of the Arab side of town."

Officials promised that within weeks each of the placards will be taken down and the Arabic text added.

PS "YESTERDAY," writes a Beersheba reader, "I needed to contact someone in the local Israel Aircraft Industries plant. I called '14' and was told, 'That is a restricted number.' I felt curious enough to look up the Beersheba Golden Pages. Sure enough, there, on page 67, was the number for anyone to read, 057-74851. I then called the '14' supervisor to ask for an explanation of this anomaly, but all I got was an irritated comment. 'We do what we're told.' Calling the IAI was no more satisfactory. There I was denounced as a busybody." A.S.

PS AT THE RECENT ceremony at Beit Hanassi commemorating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Sir Moses Montefiore, London barrister Harold Montefiore pointed out that not all members of his illustrious family have remained Jewish. Hugh Montefiore, for example, who was Bar Mitzva in the house that now serves as the Israel Embassy in London, is the Bishop of Birmingham.

"When a Montefiore does something, he does it in a big way," commented Harold's wife Harriet. "He didn't just become an ordinary Christian, he became a bishop. But the change of faith in no way reflected a break with family or Israel. When the first Israeli banknotes bearing the likeness of Sir Moses were sent to England to be distributed among members of the family, the Bishop of Birmingham came to claim his share," she said. G.F.C.

Postscripts welcomes items from readers, especially anecdotes concerning the lighter side of life in Israel. Contributions must be accompanied by the writer's name, address, and identity-card number, and sent to: Postscripts, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Romema, Jerusalem 91000.

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The conference will take place on Tuesday, January 1, 1985 at 8:30 p.m. at the Gerard Behar Cen